Remarks

Kindly enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the claims.

Claims 1-43 are pending, claims 32-43 having been added. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Irving

Registration No. 38,499

RCI:jlg

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. 1001 G Street, N.W., Eleventh Floor Washington, D.C. 20001-4597 Phone: (202) 508-9100

Fax: (202) 508-9299

Dated: January 14, 2002